manufacturing cost of each combat aircraft is estimated to be about Rs. 90 crore. The total manufacturing cost would depend on the numbers to be produced.

Enquiry into Defence Deals

†2140. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Defence are planning to conduct an enquiry into defence deals made by India during the last few years; if so, the name of such deals alongwith the reasons for conducting such an enquiry; and

(b) whether Ministry of Defence propose to conduct an enquiry into the deals concerning Sukhoi aircraft as well; if so, whether any enquiry has so far been started or not; what is the latest position of enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) With a view to ensure absolute probity in defence procurements and in deference to the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament during the course of the Short Duration Discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December 1999 on Defence Procurement Procedures, Government has requested the C&AG to carry out a review/Speical Audit of the allegations pertaining to:

(i) excessively and wrongly bought spares that are reportedly lying as junk in various depots,

(ii) alleged irregularities in emergency procurements for Kargil operations; and

(iii) non-transfer of technology, even though contracted and paid for.

For the same reasons, the Government has also requested the Central Vigilance Commission for instituting a probe by the CBI or any other appropriate agency into the following allegations:

(i) involvement of agents/middlemen in major Defence deals after imposition of ban on involvement of agents,

(ii) allegations made during the course of Short Duration discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December 1999 regarding irregularities in Defence procurements, and

(iii) allegation made in the writ petition filed by a serving Rear Admiral in the Delhi High Court.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Details requested by the C&AG and the CVC have been made available to them. The Ministry of Defence is extending all possible co-operation to the CVC and the C&AG for expeditious completion of Review/Special Audit/ investigations by them.

Bihar Soldiers Killed and injured in Kargil War

†2141. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers from Bihar who were either killed or injured during Kargil war;

(b) whether the families of all these soldiers have been provided financial assistance by Government; .

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The details of Army personnel belonging to Bihar, killed during Kargil conflict are as under:

Officer	JCO	Other Rank
01	01	15

State-wise details of unjured soldiers are not being maintained. A comprehensive welfare package has been provided to the next of kin of the Army personnel killed in the Kargil conflict. This includes ex-gratia lumpsem copensation of Rs. 10 lakhs; liberalised special family pension on the basis of last pay drawn by the deceased soldier; and death gratuity and family gratuity as per specified rates, as applicable. Apart from the above, the following assistance has been provided from the National Defence Fund: Rs.5 lakhs for dwelling unit; Rs. 1 lakh per child for education upto two children per family; Rs. 1.20 lakhs for needy parents who were dependent on the decased soliders. An additional exgratia amount of Rs. 30,000/has also been provided from the Army Central Welfare Fund. Besides, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has separately earmarked LPG dealerships/distributorships' for allocation to the next of kin of the Army Personnel killed.

Financial assistance as above has been provided to NOKs, as applicable, on completion of necessary documentation.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.